

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS - MAY 9, L974

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: THURSDAY MORNING NEWSPAPERS AND WIRE REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM TAKE OPTIMISTIC TONE, REPORT "SOME PROGRESS" MADE IN DAMASCUS WITH HAK DETECTING "PSYCHOLOGICAL MOVEMENT" TOWARD AGREEMENT. O'LEARY REPORTS SYRIAN DISILLUSIONMENT WITH SOVIETS. AFTERNOON WIRES FROM CAIRO FAR MORE PESSIMISTIC, LEADING WITH QUOTE FROM US OFFICIAL TO EFFECT SYRIA AND ISRAEL BARELY "IN THE STARTING BLOCK" ON DISENGAGEMENT WITH ODDS NOT EVEN 50-50. TIME AND NEWSWEEK, BOTH LATE DUE TO WATERGATE TRANSCRIPTS, REPEAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS FROM WEEKEND THAT "SHAPE OF AGREEMENT" IN EVIDENCE.

1. GWERTZMAN STORY NYT PAGE 1 ABOVE FOLD UNDER HEAD "SYRIA-ISRAEL GAIN SEEN BY KISSINGER: HE REPORTS 'SOME PROGRESS' IN DISENGAGEMENT EFFORTS AFTER VISITING TWO CAPITALS." OFFICIALS IN HAK PARTY SAY THAT PROCESS OF NARROWING GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA HAS BEGUN AND THAT HAK DETECTS "PSYCHOLOGICAL MOVEMENT" TOWARD AGREEMENT FOR FIRST TIME.

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YET HAK AND TOP AIDES INSIST GULF STILL QUITE WIDE, UNCER-

TAIN WHETHER AGREEMENT ATTAINABLE THIS TRIP. OPTIMISTIC SIGN IN HAK TELLING HIS AIDES HE IS PREPARED TO EXTEND SHUTTLE INTO MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK IF PROGRESS CONTINUES. NEW ISRAELI PROPOSAL BROUGHT TO DAMASCUS SUPPOSEDLY INCLUDES RETURN OF KUNEITRA. US OFFICIALS CONTINUE CAUTIOUS ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION. GWERTZMAN REPORTS HAK MAY PRODUCE OWN PLAN TO OVERCOME REMAINING OBSTACLES ONCE GAP NARROWED FURTHER.

2. BERGER PIECE APPEARS PAGE 15 POST: "US ENCOURAGED ON GOLAN ACCORD." SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYS BOTH SIDES HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM ORIGINAL NEGOTIATING DEMANDS MAKING DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT MORE LIKELY. ALTHOUGH SENIOR US OFFICIALS STILL CAUTIOUS, HAK CLEARLY RECEIVED CONSIDERABLY SOFTENED DEMANDS FROM ISRAELIS AND FOUND SYRIAN WILLINGNESS TO SEARCH FOR NEW SOLUTIONS. SENIOR OFFICIAL ON PLANE CHARACTERIZES CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE OF ASSAD TALKS, SAYS ASSAD LOOKING FOR POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT RATHER THAN DISAGREEMENT. BERGER INTERPRETS THIS TO MEAN GROMYKO VISIT HAS NOT RESULTED IN HARDENING OF SYRIAN POSITION. CHARACTERIZES UPBEAT ATTITUDE OF US OFFICIALS, WHO REPORT HAK DETECTS INTANGIBLE MOVEMENT PSYCHOLOGICALLY ON BOTH SIDES: I.E., SYRIA BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL IS SECURITY NEEDS AND ISRAEL BECOMING MORE COGNIZANT OF SYRIA'S NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS. SENIOR OFFICIAL ON PLANE FEELS IT COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR HAK TO KEEP SHUTTLING MUCH LONGER, POSSIBLY MORE USEFUL TO REGISTER SOME PROGRESS AND THEN LEAVE NEGOTIATIONS TO SOME OTHER INTERMEDIARY FOR A WHILE. BERGER FEELS THIS MAY BE A NEGOTIATING PLOY, FOR BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO WANT HAK TO CONTINUE AS GO-BETWEEN.

3. JHABVALA PAGE 1 ARTICLE, "KISSINGER PRODS PEACE TALKS FORWARD," INCLUDES PIX OF MRS. KISSINGER AT ABU SIMBEL. REPORTS HAK'S PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS MOVING FORWARD. SENIOR OFFICIAL SAYS HAK MORE HOPEFUL AS RESULT OF TALKS WITH ASSAD AND CAN PERCEIVE SHAPE OF ACCORD. OFFICIAL STILL CAUTIONS THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD AGREEMENT COULD BE HALTED BY ANY ONE OF CRUCIAL ISSUES INVOLVED. JHABVALA REPORTS US SOURCES CIRCUMSPECT AND NON-SPECIFIC IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. UNCLASSIFIED

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SATIONS. OFFICIALS SAY BOTH SIDES LOOKING INTO EACH OTHER'S PROPOSALS FOR AREAS OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN DISAGREEMENT.

4. O'LEARY STORY PAGE 4, "PROGRESS SEEN IN GOLAN TALKS: KISSINGER SHUTTLE CONTINUES," REPORTS HAK BEGINNING TO DETECT INTANGIBLE MOVEMENT ON BOTH SIDES ALTHOUGH SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS STILL FAR APART ON DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD.

ONLY TANGIBLE SIGN OF BREAKTHROUGH IS THAT ISRAEL HAS GIVEN HAK MODIFIED POSITION ON DISENGAGEMENT AND SYRIA HAS GIVEN HIM SOME NEW IDEAS. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN DAMASCUS: SYRIANS LESS RECALCITRANT THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE OCTOBER WAR, AND SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SYRIA PERCEPTIBLY LESSENED. SENIOR US OFFICIAL SAYS NEW SYRIAN ATTITUDE MORE LIKELY DUE TO INFLUENCE OF SADAT AND BOUMEDIENNE THAN OF GROMYKO. O'LEARY SEES SIGN OF SYRIAN DISILLUSIONMENT WITH RUSSIANS IN ASSAD RESPONSE TO HAK'S JOKING REMARK THAT KHADDAM SPENDS ALL OF HIS TIME AT AIRPORT GREETING HIS FRIENDS (I.E., GROMYKO). O'LEARY: "ASSAD RETORTED SOMEWHAT SOUR- LY, 'NOT HIS FRIENDS, YOUR FRIENDS'." US OFFICIALS SAY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT A LITTLE MORE LIKELY NOW THAN TWO DAYS AGO. O'LEARY REPORTS ISRAELIS HAVE GONE BEYOND MERELY RETURNING KUNEITRA AND MAY HAVE AGREED TO TURN OVER MT. HERMON POSITIONS TO UN EMERGENCY FORCES AND EXECUTE FIRST-HASE WITHDRAWAL OF FORWARD POSITIONS ACROSS THE FRONT IN RETURN FOR IMMEDIATE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS AND CEASE-FIRE.

5. CSM CARRIES NO REPORT FROM SAIKOWSKI.

6. AP MORNING WIRE CARRIES SCHWEID REPORT OF WARM WELCOME RECEIVED BY HAK IN RIYADH. SAYS HAK CAME TO DISCUSS WITH FAISAL US TECHNICAL AID FOR SAUDI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MEANWHILE, BOTH AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS NOTE SOME PROGRESS IN HAK TALKS WITH SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS. AFTERNOON WIRE LEADS WITH QUOTE FROM US OFFICIALS TO EFFECT SYRIA AND ISRAEL BARELY "IN THE STARTING BLOCK" ON DISENGAGEMENT WITH ODDS NOT EVEN 50-50 THAT HAK WILL SUCCEED IN SEPARATING THEIR ARMIES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. SCHWEID SAYS HAK RECEIVED NEW EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FROM FAISAL, ON WHOM HE RELIES, ALONG WITH BOUMEDIENNE, TO INFLUENCE SYRIANS TO ACCEPT ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN HEIGHTS. US OFFICIALS SAY BOTH SIDES EXCHANGING "COMPLETE CONSIDERATIONS" BUT NO AGREEMENT YET ON DISENGAGEMENT BOUNDARY.

7. UPI MORNING LEAD HAS HAK LEAVING RIYADH FOR CAIRO WITH PREDICTIONS OF SUCCESS FOR HIS SYRIA-ISRAEL TROOP DISENGAGEMENT EFFORTS AND NEW PLANS FOR AMERICAN-SAUDI COOPERATION. AT AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE HAK ANNOUNCES HE HAS INVITED PRINCE FAHD TO COME TO WASHINGTON MAY 24 TO DISCUSS PLANS ANNOUNCED APRIL 5 FOR MORE COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL FIELDS.

8. TIME ARTICLE, "ABOARD DR. HENRY'S SHUTTLE," FOR MAY 13 EDITION PUSHED TO PAGE 40 BY WATERGATE TRANSCRIPTS. OF CURRENT SHUTTLE WRITES: "THIS TIME, IT WAS NOT

A SMOOTH FLIGHT." GOES OVER SAME GROUND COVERED BY NEWS-
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